

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

March 5, 2001  
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Mosher, Deputy Mayor Marshall, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Degginger, Lee, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Marshall opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to executive session for approximately 45 minutes to discuss one item of potential litigation. The meeting resumed at 6:35 p.m. with Mayor Mosher presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Interim Downtown Parking Proposal

Transportation Director Goran Sparrman described the City's interest in increasing the downtown parking supply. He said the proposal to be presented will add approximately 125 parking spaces on an interim basis.

Mark Poch, Traffic Engineering Manager, reviewed the history of the Downtown Parking Program. A strategy for downtown parking was initially developed as part of the 1989 Central Business District Implementation Plan. This provided the basis for parking policies that were written into the Comprehensive Plan in 1990. In 1994, Council asked staff to review the parking policies to determine the feasibility of implementing on-street parking downtown. In 1995, the Downtown Parking Task Force recommended expanding the supply of downtown parking along with providing regular and effective enforcement. A request for proposal (RFP) for parking enforcement services was issued in June 1996, and a contract with Diamond Parking was approved in November 1996.

Mr. Poch said the objective of the Downtown Parking Program is to provide short-term parking, particularly for retail customers. In 1998, there were approximately 400 short-term parking spaces downtown. There are currently 330 spaces available. Mr. Poch said the decrease in

available parking is due to street vacations and development activity. He said additional parking spaces will be lost this year and designated as bus layover areas with the implementation of the transit distributed service plan.

Mr. Poch described an interim downtown parking proposal that would create new street parking on 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Both streets are currently five lanes wide, which includes a middle turn lane. The proposed project would convert outside lanes to street parking. Approximately 85 new two-hour spaces would be created on NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street, and 40 new spaces would be created on 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE.

Mr. Poch said the capacity of some intersections on both streets would be reduced somewhat. However, intersection capacities would accommodate projected traffic volumes through 2006 and affected intersections are not measured for concurrency purposes. The project is considered interim in the sense that capacity demands could necessitate reverting the parking lanes back to travel use. Mr. Poch said the project cost is estimated at \$25,000 and funding is available in the capital budget.

Mr. Poch said if Council approves the parking proposal, staff will discuss it with downtown businesses and property owners and report back to Council with the results of these discussions and a recommendation.

Mr. Sparrman noted that NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street was originally designed with five lanes to provide freeway access. Subsequent action by Council replaced that design with the Access Downtown Project, which creates a new interchange at NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street and maintains access at NE 4<sup>th</sup> and NE 8<sup>th</sup> Streets. As a result, NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street is currently underutilized. Mr. Sparrman said NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street was originally funded in part through the LID (local improvement district) mechanism. This makes it even more critical that the City engage in dialogue with downtown stakeholders prior to developing a final recommendation for Council's consideration.

In response to Mr. Lee, Mr. Sparrman noted that an update of the Downtown Implementation Plan is underway and will be completed in 12 to 18 months. This planning effort will help staff develop a long-term strategy for downtown parking. Mr. Sparrman said both NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE are underutilized.

Mr. Degginger commented that traffic volumes appeared heavier on NE 10<sup>th</sup> Street during the holiday season. Mr. Sparrman said the project would be monitored to address problems and/or changes that may occur.

Mayor Mosher feels the parking proposal will be good for the area and will make the street more pedestrian-friendly.

Mr. Creighton was comfortable with the proposal but expressed concern about future construction and capacity demands. He encouraged staff to identify less expensive, long-term parking for the area in the Downtown Implementation Plan update.

- Mrs. Marshall moved to direct staff to proceed with public involvement on the proposed Interim Downtown Parking Project and to report back to Council with a recommendation. Mr. Lee seconded the motion.

Responding to Dr. Davidson, Mr. Sparrman said the pending loss of parking spaces due to the addition of bus layover areas is a necessary consequence of the distributed service approach adopted by Council for downtown transit service. In further response, Mr. Sparrman said the parking spaces will be limited to two hours.

Mr. Lee feels the parking proposal will benefit everyone who visits downtown.

- The motion to direct staff to proceed with public involvement on the proposed Interim Downtown Parking Project and to report back to Council with a recommendation carried by a vote of 7-0.

### 3. Discussion

- (a) Application of Charles Hunter, known as the Kamber Road Rezone, to approve the rezone of a four-acre parcel from R-2.5 (Single family, 2.5 units per acre) to R-5 (Single family, 5 units per acre). The site consists of four properties, each with separate ownership, located on 2008-2010 Kamber Road and 2128-2130 140<sup>th</sup> Place SE. (File No. 00-252308LQ)

City Manager Steve Sarkozy introduced the application of Charles Hunter requesting a rezone of a four-acre parcel from R-2.5 to R-5.

Cristina Van Valkenburgh, Land Use Director, noted that the land use map designation indicates this site is zoned for single-family, medium-density (R-4 or R-5) development. Approval of the rezone request will bring the site's zoning into compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. The Hearing Examiner denied a SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) appeal related to this request and recommended approval of the rezone. The rezone application is scheduled for Council action on March 19.

In response to Mr. Degginger, Ms. Van Valkenburg said the zoning change represents a potential increase of 14 units on the site and the property across Kamber Road is zoned R-5. Mayor Mosher noted the zoning will be consistent with the current Comprehensive Plan designation for the site.

In response to Mr. Noble, Ms. Van Valkenburgh said the original decision of the Hearing Examiner included a condition requiring the City to perform environmental review on any subdivision occurring on the property. According to the State Environmental Policy Act, certain developments are exempt from environmental review. Therefore, the Hearing Examiner's condition was found to be inconsistent with the state's exemption policy. Ms. Van Valkenburgh said an appeal regarding the SEPA threshold determination was heard by the Hearing Examiner and denied.

4. Council Business [Regular Session Agenda Item 6]

At 7:10 p.m., Mayor Mosher suggested Councilmembers report on council business.

Deputy Mayor Marshall and Mr. Creighton met with state legislators to discuss regional transportation issues. Mrs. Marshall participated in a Valentine's Day event at the North Bellevue Senior Center. Mrs. Marshall, Mr. Creighton, and Mr. Noble met with Councilmembers from Kirkland and Redmond to discuss development of a joint interest statement on regional transportation projects. Mrs. Marshall congratulated Coach Al Russell and the Bellevue High School girls basketball team for finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the state.

Dr. Davidson attended the Cascade Water Alliance's annual meeting and the Council retreat.

Mr. Lee attended the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) Board meeting

Mr. Noble and Mrs. Marshall attended the Trans-Lake Washington Study Executive Committee meeting.

Mayor Mosher, who was in City Hall when the earthquake occurred, said he was impressed with staff's response. Mr. Degginger and Mayor Mosher attended the Cascade Water Alliance meeting. Mr. Mosher suggested that Mr. Degginger take over as Council liaison to the Cascade Water Alliance, with Dr. Davidson as alternate.

- ➡ Mrs. Marshall moved to appoint Grant Degginger as Council's representative to the Cascade Water Alliance, with Dr. Don Davidson as alternate. Mr. Creighton seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to appoint Grant Degginger as Council's representative to the Cascade Water Alliance, with Dr. Don Davidson as alternate, carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mayor Mosher thanked Council for the excellent discussions at the weekend Council retreat. Council discussed a variety of topics including ideas for the future, the proposed public safety facility, parks and open space needs, the possibility of a new performing arts center, and the City's partnership with the Bellevue School District.

- ➡ Mr. Noble moved to reappoint Ron Matthew and David Elliott to each serve an additional term on the Transportation Commission, and Mr. Lee seconded the motion.
- ➡ The motion to reappoint Ron Matthew and David Elliott to serve an additional term on the Transportation Commission carried by a vote of 7-0.
- ➡ Mrs. Marshall moved to cancel the March 12, 2001, Extended Study Session, and Mr. Noble seconded the motion.

Mrs. Marshall noted that several Councilmembers will be in Washington, D.C., on March 12.

- ☛ The motion to cancel the March 12, 2001, Extended Study Session carried by a vote of 7-0.

At 7:25 p.m., Mayor Mosher declared recess to the regular session.

Myrna L. Basich  
City Clerk

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